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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NAVAJO MAN INDICTED IN DEATH OF HIS INFANT SON**

PHOENIX – A federal grand jury in Phoenix yesterday returned a one-count indictment against Nino Willie, DOB 10/8/71, of The Gap, Ariz. on the Navajo Indian Reservation, for violating Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 1111, Second Degree Murder.

Willie had previously been charged by a criminal complaint for involuntary manslaughter in the death of his 18-month son. The complaint alleged that Willie left his son in a remote area of the Navajo Reservation where the defendant had been using methamphetamine. Willie returned home with his three-year-old daughter but left his son behind. The child's body was found three days later by law enforcement officials after he was reporting missing by his mother.

A conviction for Second Degree Murder carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the FBI and the Navajo Department of Public Safety, Criminal Investigations. The prosecution is being handled by Ann Birmingham Scheel, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-1135-PCT

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